

"What is the use of all this work for medical organization?" Dear man, the uses are so many that one might write books about them. There is, first of all, the **WHAT WE WORK FOR.** duty which you owe yourself and your patients. You have assumed, with the taking upon yourself of professional rank, certain obligations, not the least of which is to give to your patients the best of up-to-date medical knowledge. Can you possibly do this if you are out of touch with what is doing and progressing in medical science? Can you keep in touch with medical progress if you shut yourself up like a clam and pay no attention to what other men are doing and reporting? You are the worst kind of an utter fool if you think you can, and you have no right to be turned loose upon an unsuspecting and confiding public. No man, of himself and alone, can possibly keep up with what is being done, no matter how many journals he takes and tries to read, unless he comes in contact with other men and hears of their successes, mistakes and experiences. Furthermore, you should give of your own store of experience. Wherein you succeed may be just the little particular which the other fellow misses and so does not help his patient as much as he could if he had the knowledge of that one little thing which is yours alone. That is nothing more nor less than your duty. And again, you know that your professional life is a very lonely one. You see only sick people and they all think you are about the smartest there is, or they wouldn't have you. And pretty soon you get the same magnificent idea, and then you look down upon the others of your calling whom you do not meet and know, and you think you are a little bit better than they are. But, really you know, you are not. Go to your county society, help make it what it should be, give of what you have and take from what others give, and you will soon learn to lose some of this enforced self-conceit. You are not the whole thing, as your patients would make you believe, and possibly the man you particularly look down upon may do something a whole lot better than you ever thought of doing it. And more than this, your profession exists to protect the public, often in spite of themselves and their ignorance. Are you doing your duty here? Can you do it unless you help to make your county society the power in the county which is the right and the duty of our profession?

How are the people to be protected from the quack, the faker and the charlatan, unless you, who know the exact conditions, step out manfully and shoulder your **CONSIDER THE QUACK.** duty? The people do not know what you do of the pretender to false knowledge, and they can not know unless our profession tells them. How can the legislature, made up of ordinary laymen, enact proper laws for the protection of the people when they do not know or realize what the people are to be protected from, or why? And who is to give them this infor-

mation if we do not? Comes the Governor of the state to our society and asks that members of it be elected to the legislature so that he may have a source of reliable advice and information. He realizes his own limitations and his own ignorance and asks that we help him. How much more ignorant must be the general average of the lay citizen? Is your county society—and are you—doing what should be done in this direction? If not, get busy; do it now; do it right away. See that your society takes up the question of quackery with the citizens of your county. Get the ministry interested and show them what a lot of harm they are doing in allowing their flocks to be preyed upon by the Viavi fakers and the other brands too numerous to mention. Show the lawyers and the judges of your county what the medical law really is; what it means; what it strives to do and how it is intended to protect, not you or your profession, but the ignorant sick man. Have you done this? Have you ever tried to do it? If not, there is another duty you have neglected. And it should be done by your county society. That is another of the numerous reasons for organization. Through a solid, friendly, studious, hard working county society, these things can be so presented to all classes of the people that they will demand the legislation for their protection which they now look upon with suspicion—for they do not understand—whenever we recommend it to the uninstructed legislators. To be sure, our profession is benefited incidentally by the suppression of the quack, for he brings constant disgrace upon us all through his methods and his pretensions. Hundreds of letters come to the JOURNAL every year, protesting against the presence of some quack in some community where the pretender is throwing open ridicule upon the upright members of our profession. The people do not understand and they are an easy prey. But once let them understand, once get the leaders of the churches, the women and the women's clubs interested, once let them see what the real facts are, and the day of the quack will be speedily over.

Consider the terrible ignorance of the people on the subject of preventable diseases. It is appalling.

In these United States a single preventable disease kills more people every day than were killed in the Spanish-American war! And mind you, a *preventable disease*, for tuberculosis is perfectly preventable. Over 400 persons die each day from a disease that could be prevented, wiped out, if the people knew and understood. Is it any part or portion of our duty to make them understand? Is it not a part of your duty to see to it that they are educated as to the nature of tuberculosis and the means at hand for preventing its spread? We have recently seen the organization of the California Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis. The work of this Association will be very largely directed toward the education of the public. Is it not also a part of the duty of the county medical society to co-operate in this